In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph at p. 2, lines 1-8 with the following amended paragraph:

-- In the realm of software, as well, certain arrangements for updating are known. Examples include Intuit's "TURBO TAX", where the software periodically queries the user whether to check the Intuit web page for updated versions of the software and/or newer versions of the tax forms. With Norton's "ANTIVIRUS", the software periodically checks whether updated virus signature files are available on the company web site. With the IBM "GLOBAL NETWORK DIALER", when there is a connection to the internet, the software determines whether a newer version of the software and/or a newer version of the phone number list is available and asks the user whether to update.--

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 2 and 32, currently on file, without prejudice.

Please rewrite Claims 1, 3-7, 9-12, 20 and 31 as follows:

-- 1. (Amended) A self-describing peripheral device for being integrated with a computer operating system, said device/comprising:

at least one hardware component resident in said device; and